

realencouragement

Lakeshore Community Church

realencouragement.org

Volume 13, No. 4

A Hip Hope Christmas

Well, we're in the middle of the Christmas season and the hype is in full stride. At no time do we see more of a hype-job in the world than we do right now. There's sale hype, party hype, relational hype, gift hype and every-other-hype imaginable.

But while the world is heavy on *hype*, it is very light on *hope*. Just look at people after the holidays and you'll see sad faces, empty hearts, and deep disappointment (not to mention large credit card bills). January can be a depressing time for many people. It's proof that the world offers us little hope.

God wants us to have a Christmas that isn't based on hype but hope—real, enduring hope. God wants hope in Him to be “hip”. He wants everyone who will follow Him to have a “hip hope” Christmas.

That's what Lakeshore will be about for the entire month of December: hope! We'll look at what the Bible has to say about what hope is, how it works and principles on how to experience it even when times are tough.

Need hope to replace the hype? I HOPE you'll be there, arm in arm with family and friends who just may need God's hope in their life!

Pastor Vince



Vince



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Real Encouragement is published quarterly as a ministry of Lakeshore Community Church.

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Next Edition
Articles for the next edition of Real Encouragement will be due in mid-February. Submitting articles and photos early is appreciated. Submit text and photos by email to submissions@

Christmas without Christ

Editor's Desk

I recently read an article in which the writer described his favorite Christmas songs. He complained that the songs played at Christmastime are unpleasant, full of pain and misery. The writer was at a loss to explain why this is. As I read the article, my heart was breaking, because I do know why.

I did not grow up in a family of Christians. My father is Jewish, my mother had defected from an evangelical church, and my sisters and I were raised in a Unitarian-Universalist church. My mother bought the lie of the perfect Christmas hook, line and sinker. Every year, she attempted to re-create the old-fashioned family Christmas she desperately wanted. Our Christmas celebrations never lived up to the ideal my mother envisioned, and she spent most of the day angry, sad, or both. This was a painful reminder for all of us that something was always missing from our holiday traditions—but we never really knew what it was.

I can still remember the first Christmas after I became a Christian. It was like my world had gone from grainy black-and-white to vivid, high-definition color. Suddenly, I understood what everyone was really singing about in all those familiar Christmas carols. This is what had been missing from countless family Christmases: Christ!

Christmas can be a difficult season for many people. In this issue of *Real Encouragement*, you will find inspiring articles about hope and life-change. This year, instead of getting caught up in the business, stress, and worry of the holidays, why not get caught up in the wonder of Christ?

~Amy Mitchell
Real Encouragement Team Leader

Gimme More Presence

By Pastor Cory

As the Christmas season is now upon us, I find myself pondering many memories of years before... memories of opening presents, of connecting with family, of endless parties and gift exchanges, and of 3am Christmas Eve shopping. But one Christmas in particular stands out. I was probably 10 years old, and my brother and I had both asked for many things. As we raced down the stairs at 6am to awaken our parents, we were greeted by an almost empty tree. My brother and I looked at each other, both confidently assured that there was some gigantic present out in the back room unable to fit under the tree.

About an hour later, our worst fears had come true. There were no more presents; nothing in the back room, and of the presents we did receive, one of them we actually had to share! I remember now with pain and regret looking back at that experience as we ungratefully responded to our parents by crying out for more presents. It was a financially rough time for our family, and our parents did the absolute best they could. But in our selfishness, we couldn't see that.

This Christmas season in Ignite Student Ministries, we want to take the focus off the presents under the tree, and instead, place it on the presence of Jesus Christ. We want to stand together by our collective Christmas trees and proclaim from the top of our lungs, "Gimme More Presence!"—more of who Jesus is, more of how Jesus thinks, and more of what Jesus does! Gimme more of His presence in ways that will revolutionize our lives forever!

Thursday, December 4th – "More Strength When Life Stinks"
Thursday, December 11th – "More of Him and Less of Me"
Thursday, December 18th – "More Help For a Hopeless World"

We hope that you'll join us for this power-packed series. ISM is here every Thursday night from 6:30-8:15pm for all students 6th thru 12th grade, complete with ping-pong, air hockey, Madden, video games, worship, drama, life challenging messages, videos, discussion groups, and real relationships in an atmosphere of genuine care. We can't wait to see you there! Gimme more presence!



The Friendship Company

By Mike Knox

"But Jesus called the children to him and said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.'"

(Luke 18:16)

At Lakeshore, the Friendship Company provides top-quality child care, instruction, and spiritual development for children during the adult services. Volunteers provide care and teach the children. The lessons for the kids follow what we learn in the adult service but at an age appropriate level. Lessons are interactive with questions to the kids being answered by them. Their vision of Heaven and God is refreshing to hear. Their outlook is so open to the Word and they want to learn more.

I recently had the opportunity to visit with Jill Freese, Director of Children's Ministry, and the class she was teaching in the Friendship Company. I had a great time with her and the kids. When I came in all the kids had a tile they were drawing on that will be placed in the new building. They were drawing what they were looking forward to when LC2 is completed. When they are all put together it will make a mosaic of the dreams of Lakeshore.

The lesson the second Sunday I spent with them was about our relationship with Jesus, how it is like having a great friend. He is always there for them and loves them no matter what; even when they pick on their siblings or don't listen to their parents. He is there to listen to them and cares about them. We also watched a video that helped explain how God is everywhere and made our universe. That really made them think hard because even for me that still leaves me feeling small and insignificant. But we were reminded that size is not what God cares about, but how we live in His world and how we treat others.

After the lesson all the kids were asked if they would like Jesus to be their Forever Friend. Some children had questions about this, and it really made them think about how they would like Jesus to be in their life. I helped them write out their names and explain what this meant. Some were ready and easily checked yes. Others had to think about it more and talk to their parents more about this. We made sure they knew that was ok too.

The great thing about Friendship Company is the kids can be kids while they learn about the Bible and Jesus. The adults also are able to have fun, learning how to relate to God from the children's view.

If you are interested in helping out at the Friendship Company please call Jill Freese at 585-392-5253 or go to the sign up sheet outside room 110. You will not regret spending time with our children.



Check out the
Real Encouragement
web site:

realencouragement.org.

You can view the
current issue and read
some web-only articles.

Be sure to come back
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print issues.

Baptism at Lakeshore

From "What We Believe," LakeshoreChurch.org



"Scripture commands that believers gather together regularly to devote themselves to worship, instruction from God's Word, prayer, fellowship, use of spiritual gifts to serve the body, outreach to the world, and the two sacraments ordained by Jesus Christ—**baptism, which is performed anytime after conversion** and communion, which memorializes the atoning death and resurrection of Christ. The objective of the church is to make disciples everywhere for God's glory. (Acts 2, Eph. 2:11-22, Acts)."

Baptism is a sign that you have made a faith commitment and a wonderful opportunity to share your faith by inviting family and friends to a baptism service. Lakeshore Community Church wants you to obey God's wishes and will help you prepare for baptism.

Baptism Orientation (explaining the importance, nature and joy of baptism at Lakeshore)

This is a no-strings-attached, no-obligation opportunity to find out about baptism and determine if you are ready to be baptized as a follower of Christ. The most recent orientation met over lunch on a Saturday and was led by Elder Dan Kilker. The class includes a study guide and a video appearance by Pastor Vince.

The baptism orientation helps you understand:
What it means to be a Christian and how it relates to baptism.
What baptism means and why every Christian should be baptized.

You will complete your "Faith Commitment Story" questionnaire that will become the personal testimony you present at your baptism. It is important for the Church leadership to understand your spiritual journey and how you have made a faith commitment to Jesus Christ as your personal Lord.

To understand your purpose in life, you must understand the four basic "facts of life" with respect to God. The orientation goes into more detail and this information will also assist you in developing your evangelical skills.

Fact #1) God (The Father, Jesus The Son, The Holy Spirit) longs to **lovingly relate** to us, and He is holy and perfect.

Fact #2) All people (like you and I) are unable to meet God's standards because of **our sins**. And, as a result, we **cut ourselves off** from enjoying God's love. The consequences of living in this state are **eternal separation** from God when we die.

Fact #3) Jesus Christ, who is God, came to Earth to die on the cross as a substitute for us so that we can be **forgiven of all our sins** (and hence viewed by God as perfect) and enjoy the loving, meaningful relationship He wants to have with us.

Fact #4) We must **decide** to accept or reject Jesus Christ's payment for our sins on God's terms to have the loving relationship with God that He desires and we need.

Did you notice the common theme? It's about having a relationship with God, not just attending church on Sunday morning, and it takes commitment and dedication on our part. Baptism is the start of your walk with God!

Over 400 people have been baptized at Lakeshore; some in Lake Ontario, some in members' swimming pools, and we now enjoy the convenience of our own baptism pool (no, you won't be baptized in the pond!)

Nine people were baptized this August: Nicole & Lucian Price, Vanessa Smith, Larry Bernardini, Laurie Stone, Julie Capone, Sal Alonci, Andrea DeBurro and Erik Benson.

Erik shared his story with me. He was raised in a Pentecostal family baptized as a child, and again when his family attended a Methodist church. (Note: at Lakeshore we believe that baptism is a personal decision, not one that is made for you by your parents, so there is a



Real Encouragement Ministry Team Members!

Amy Mitchell, Leader
Paul Clark
Kim Jones
Mike Knox
Laura Russell
Debbie Secules

Thank you for your
contributing articles.

Baptism at Lakeshore.....cont

For the next 25 years, as many people do, Erik searched for his place in the world, while dealing with the ever-present temptations. Lakeshore Community Church has been a blessing for Erik and he committed his life to Christ in January 2005.

Now Erik is a member of the Lakeshore Greet Team and on Sunday might be the one who welcomes you to church. As a greeter Erik "has met many people who have inspired him" and has come to "recognize and enjoy the core members of Lakeshore." As he grew into the Lakeshore family Erik says he wanted to "make a commitment that shows how much he loves these people."

As a parent, Erik desires to set a good example for his kids by showing them the importance of his faith. As he shared his testimony with the assembled congregation, he hoped to inspire someone else to "take the plunge" and honor God with baptism. At a baptism service you will hear heart-warming stories that inspire you to "go deeper."

For more information about baptism, contact the Lakeshore office, visit the church web site, or look for baptism announcements in an upcoming Sunday bulletin.



Have a thought to share?

Want to respond to something you read in one of our articles? Please tell us about it!

Send an e-mail to
submissions@
realencouragement.org
with "letters" in the tag
line.

Valentine's Day Banquet



February 14, 2009

Spend a romantic evening with your loved one... The evening includes dinner, dancing and fun with friends. Tickets go on sale January 4 after both services. The dinner/dance is for dating, engaged and married couples.

Buffet Menu

- Top Round Beef
- Chicken Cordon Bleu
- Vegetable Lasagna
- Rice, Pasta and Potato
- California Blend Vegetables
- Dessert

I love you

Contact person: Lillian Reyes

585.392.5253

lsreyes@lakeshorechurch.org

Spotlight on...Pastor Cory Hunnyman

By Amy Mitchell

Real Encouragement is starting a series of interviews with the staff and leadership of Lakeshore. For this issue, I had the privilege of talking with our Student Pastor, Cory Hunnyman, about stepping into Lakeshore and his vision for youth ministry.



Real Encouragement (RE): How long have you been a Christian, and how did you become a Christian?

Pastor Cory (PC): I came to Christ probably around age 5. I had the privilege of growing up with 2 parents who both knew God and were in love with him. When I was about 5 years old I sat down with my parents and they told me about my need for Christ and how even as a little kid, still I had messed up and needed God to forgive me my sins; so I turned my life over to him at that point.

RE: What attracted you to Lakeshore Church?

PC: Probably the thing that right off the top attracted us was the church's aggressive approach to reaching the people around it, being aware of the culture and penetrating the culture. It was really cool to see that because a lot of churches try to do that, but they just can't get past certain things in order to reach people. Sometimes you go into some churches and it's kind of like you have to learn a special code...you know, when to stand, when to sit. It takes about 10 years to figure out how you're supposed to respond. What we liked about Lakeshore is it's come as you are.

RE: Not a lot of Christian-ese.

PC: No, there's not, which is really refreshing. Very solid, Biblically, as a church, and yet, "out of the box," very relevant.

RE: How do you define excellence, and what does it mean for Student Ministry?

PC: The first thing that comes to mind is high quality. I think making programs and events available to students no matter where they're at in their journey with God where they can just come and plug in and move to the next step. I want to see students making progress. [Also], leadership is a big deal, to have good leadership committed to the ministry, not just for a couple years, but for the long haul. Another thing that's big in terms of making a good ministry with excellence would be having students owning the ministry, where they have a hand in how it's run and how it's working and they contribute to it, it's not just something they come to and [just] sit. [Lastly], we can put on a great program, we can have tons of teens, and hundreds of them all come out for different events, but the real burning question on my heart is: They've come to our ministry from 6th grade all the way through 12th grade, are they more prepared now, when they leave high school and they go to college and enter the world as an adult, are they prepared to make that transition effectively; can they own their own faith?

RE: Those are great goals. What is one thing that you wish everyone knew about youth ministry? Or more than one!

PC: I think [youth ministry is] the best spot in the church. You don't have to have all the right looks or the right acts or anything like that, you can just be yourself, and what we always tell our leaders is, you just have to have a love for God and you have to like students. A lot of times we say that the teens in the church, they're the future of the church—I believe that the teens aren't just the future of the church, they are the church right now. A teenager who's fully committed and sold out to God can literally change the world right now where they're at.

RE: Tell us something unique or interesting about yourself.

PC: Something unique or interesting about myself...

RE: Sure!

PC: I absolutely love the TV show 24. I'm addicted to it. Some days I actually wake up and I

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Music at Lakeshore Community Church

By Paul Clark

Contemporary Christian music ("praise and worship" music) has been a cornerstone of Lakeshore Community Church since our first gathering more than thirteen years ago. Music is an important element at Sunday services, Common Ground and special events like Coffee House and holiday concerts.

Currently we have three complete bands and vocal teams that lead worship at our services and Lakeshore's Ignite Student Ministry has recently started a band to provide music for youth events.

Respect those who work hard among you...
Hold them in highest regard in love because of their work.
1 Thessalonians 5:12-13

Music and Programming Pastor Frank Deluccio describes our mission and purpose on the Music Team web page:

Lakeshore's Music Team is a community of dedicated artists who create an aural backdrop for LCC's Sunday morning services and Common Ground Mid-week service, as well as special events held at LCC.

Whether it is leading people into the presence of the Almighty or rocking it out with a special music selection, the Music Team's goal and purpose is to help the people of LCC connect to the central theme of the service through music and help them draw closer to our Savior no matter where they are in their spiritual walk.

When Lakeshore Community Church was founded, one of our core values was to use relevant, modern music in our services. Currently we play songs written by our Music Team members as well as by artists like Chris Tomlin, Mercy Me, Lincoln Brewster and Todd Agnew. Thursday night Common Ground services offer more worship than our Sunday services and include some traditional hymns with an updated feel.

We invite you to join us for worship on Sunday mornings at 9 or 11 am or on the first and third Thursday of the month at 7 pm for Common Ground.

Pastor Frank is currently working to hire a full-time Music Pastor/Director and is excited about the musical opportunities this person will bring to Lakeshore.

Lakeshore's Music Team Mission Statement

"To stimulate seekers and engage believers in worship, through relevant music so they are prepared to hear, learn from and apply God's Word to their everyday lives."

If you want to learn more about the Lakeshore Music team, or to set up an audition, visit the Lakeshore web site at Lakeshorechurch.org and click on the "Music" ministry tab. Or, contact Pastor Frank at 585-392-5253, ext 1204.



***Sign Language
Interpretation
is available on
Sunday's at the
11:00am service only.***

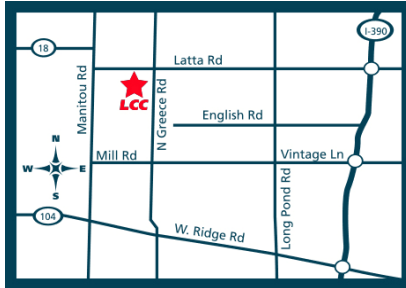




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Want an email update of all that's happening at Lakeshore? Sign up for "This Week At Lakeshore" via our website www.lakeshorechurch.org

SUNDAY SERVICES

Hip Hope

- 11/30 Soul Anchor
- 12/7 Why Hope?
- 12/14 Getting Your Hopes Up
- 12/21 Hope For Christmas
- 12/24 CHRISTMAS EVE 6pm—Imagine Hope
- 12/28 Hope For A New Year

The Economy Is Bad (But God Is Good)

- 1/4 Burned By A Financial Downturn
- 1/11 Learned From A Financial Downturn

SPIR-IT

- 1/18 The "It" Factor
- 1/25 The Helper
- 2/1 Fill Me Up
- 2/8 Go With His Flow

COMMON GROUND MIDWEEK SERVICE

Hebrews: Our Superior Savior

- 1/8 Jesus Is So Much Greater
- 1/22 He Can Identify With Us
- 2/5 Don't Harden Your Heart
- 2/19 The Rest That Really Satisfies
- 3/5 The Great High Priest
- 3/19 Growing Up, Falling Down, Standing Strong
- 4/2 BAPTISM CELEBRATION!!!
- 4/10 Good Friday Service
- 4/16 God Said It, That Settles It
- 5/7 National Day of Prayer at Greece Assembly
- 5/21 The Perfect Permanent Priest

